

Village Design Statement Steering Committee

Meeting – 19 September 2005

Attendance

John Silltow
Cathy Freeman
Christine Beedles
Robin Boyes

Gordon Genge
Julie Genge
Sally Berkley Sage

In addition there were 8 members of the public.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that the open Parish Council Meeting on 4 July 2005 produced an insufficient number of people to properly validate a project of this nature. Around 25 people attended that meeting and although all were supportive the numbers demonstrated an overall lack of interest for the project within the parish.

Members of the Youth Committee, the Football Committee and the public were in the audience and they reinforced these views.

A letter from David Fitter was circulated suggesting that the Committee undertook an exercise to consult with all members of the parish and this formed the basis for a wide-ranging debate. The primary concerns identified were:

- There needs to be a majority of support within the parish before this project can go ahead.
- The views of every resident should be taken rather than just the 'head' of the household.
- Torridge District Council (TDC) and/or the Community Council of Devon (CCD) should be contacted for advice on how such a survey should be carried out.

The preferred option that emerged from the discussions was to leaflet every household with a short information pack. This would provide sufficient for readers to understand the issues. It would also contain a voting form with the options of yes or no for each member of the household. Subject to the views of TDC and CCD this is the approach that should be adopted.

The timescale for this exercise should be contained as far as possible with a target of early October being favourite.

It was further agreed that the chairman or other representative of each of the groups in Dolton would be contacted with a view to providing:

- Some education for themselves and their members on the Village Design statement project.
- The request that they discuss this with their committee and members.

- The opportunity for them to join the Steering Committee or contribute to the project in some way.

The Steering Committee recognised that this project requires a broad range of skills and that not all of these would be needed all the time. Support from other groups and individuals would be very welcome.

The meeting was reminded that the ideal project Committee size suggested by CCD was 12. Currently there are only 7 members on the Steering Committee.

All opportunities available should be used for promotion of this project including the Diary. It was recognised that Diary deadlines may preclude much information being provided for the October issue.

Actions arising:

John Silltow

- To draft household information pack and pass to Committee members for review.
- To draft letter and information pack for groups and pass to Committee members for review.
- To contact Pauline Wooddisse to determine Diary deadlines.
- To draft item for October Diary (if appropriate) and pass to Committee members for review (if time).

Composition of Steering Committee

It was agreed that for the short term it was not necessary to formalise any more than two posts – Chairman and Secretary.

One nomination was made for each post and the nominees accepted. The posts are therefore:

Chairman – John Silltow
Secretary – Cathy Freeman

Steering Committee Constitution

It was agreed that as this project will not progress unless there is sufficient support within the parish there was no need for a formal constitution at the moment.

Copies of the outline constitution drafted by CCD were circulated for consideration by members when appropriate.

Any other business

No matters were raised.

Date of next meeting

24 October 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the large hall of the Village Hall.